

Amherst Recycling & Refuse Management Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2012, Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 4:30PM

Approve February Minutes – Approved unanimously.

Updates:

- Solid Waste Survey – Sue had copies for people to read through (draft 8). A few more clarifications and additions were made. Susan and Laurel will get the survey up and running on Survey Monkey and send to committee members for first responses. Working to have this completed before the next RRMC meeting.
- Trash Free Lunch Day – Susan has proposed Friday, May 4, 2012.
- Sustainability Festival (general info)– Many vendors and entertainers are signed up, Shade Tree Committee running a 4th-6th grade poster contest, will make a calendar, as well. Park ranger will conduct tree activities.

Create League of Women Voters lunch presentation plan: Martha Hanner from the League of Women Voters of Amherst discussed our 3/9/12 Brown Bag presentation to the League. Meg will make the presentation & bring samples of various disposable containers. She will discuss what the Committee has done so far and the proposed next steps concerning becoming a foam-free community. Northampton LWV members have been invited to attend. RRMC will be looking for volunteers to help with educating those businesses that are still using foam. Questions for the future will include how to mount the education campaign, what to do about corporate establishments (such as Dunkin' Donuts), and what is possible in terms of bulk ordering of non-foam products. Martha suggests that a timeline will help garner volunteers, and she invited RRMC members to participate in LWV events and activities. A foam free initiative was brought before town meeting in the late 1980's. It was not voted on, and the issue was redirected to the Select Board (not sure where it went from there). Susan will invite Lucy McMurrer (who was involved in the initiative previously) to attend.

Discuss textile collection at Amherst Sustainability Festival (Saturday, April 21, 2012): Sue Morrello is willing to organize this. Bekki Craig is in attendance as a representative of the Survival Center. If people at the festival bring separate bags of reusable clothing and of "rags", this will mean less sorting at the festival. Laurel proposed that a task force be created to organize this textile collection. Approved unanimously. Bekki explained that Planet Aid ships material to Africa even though it is largely not reusable clothing. We discussed inviting the Fisher Home Hospice Shop to participate so they can share the material. Info will be on the festival flyer (needs to be drafted by Monday at the latest). Possible names include "Rags and Re-useables Collection" "Rags and Riches Collection." Bring all unused fabric items including... Suggest that people presort if possible. Need to research what to do with the rags. Bekki will email a receipt with info about textile recycling. Susan shared info from a regional recycling coordinators meeting that focused on textile recycling. Cristina suggests that we have a flyer available about what can be recycled where. Meg and Laurel will work on printed material (posters and/or flyers). Cristina and Brenda and Susan W. will work on the task force with Sue M.

Determine date for special foam/zero-waste meeting: John made a motion to hold longer meeting with the purpose of talking about zero waste initiative and how to proceed. Approved unanimously. Susan W. will send out a doodle about dates.

New Business

- March 6, Jones Library @ Noon, John will present a program about edible perennials.
- Susan provided info on Amherst's contract with the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) which expires in 2015. The MRF is working to accommodate both communities with dual AND those with single-stream recycling systems. A contract extension has been offered under which, unfortunately, has a gradual decrease in the per ton payment for dual stream communities. Single stream communities will not receive per ton payment, and all communities will still receive revenue sharing payments.
- April meeting postponed to 2nd Thursday (12th).

TO Dos

- Laurel and Cristina will print and analyze the foam-free list and create a proposed plan for how to proceed with the project
- Meg will prepare materials for & make presentation at the 3/9 LWV Brown Bag
- Sue M and the "textile task force" (Cristina, Brenda, Susan) will plan the textile collection
- Susan will invite Lucy McMurrer to LWV Brown Bag
- Bekki (Amherst Survival Center) will email a receipt with info about textile recycling to Sue M.
- Susan and Laurel will get the SW survey set up on Survey Monkey and send to committee members for a trial run
- Susan will send a doodle about an extended zero waste meeting
- Susan will create a brief flyer about what can be recycled for the recycling booth @ the Sustainability Festival